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Contact: Amy Hewes
805-756-6402; ahewes@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Engineering Women 'Go Big' at Grace Hopper 'Think Big' Conference

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly went big — 32 students strong — at the recent Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. The world's largest gathering of women in technology, the conference challenged attendees to "Think Big, Drive Forward."

Among more than 400 universities represented, Cal Poly brought the largest cohort of students from a public undergraduate university. The Cal Poly attendees represented a cross-section of majors, including computer engineering, computer science and software engineering disciplines. Most of the students are members of the Cal Poly chapter of Women Involved in Software and Hardware (WISH), a mentoring program that pairs female students with industry professionals.

Cal Poly's strong presence at the conference reflects efforts undertaken by the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department and led by Associate Professor Zoë Wood to increase the number of women in computing fields. For four years, the department has sent students to the conference. In the past two years, students have received grants for airfare, registration and hotel accommodations. In addition to providing Grace Hopper grants, the department also supports WISH.

Faculty members Wood and Julie Workman, a computer science lecturer, co-presented a workshop on computational art at the conference.

Link: <http://gracehopper.org/2013/>

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